

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (without Sunday), one year, \$10.00; Daily Bee and Sunday, one year, \$12.00; Sunday Bee, one year, \$6.00.

DELIVERED BY CARRIER: Daily Bee (without Sunday), per week, 12c; Sunday Bee (without Sunday), per week, 10c; Evening Bee (with Sunday), per week, 10c.

ADVERTISEMENTS: Communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

REMITTANCES: Remit by draft, express or postal order payable to The Bee Publishing Company.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION: State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: I, C. C. Rosewater, general manager of the Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, depose that the actual number of full and complete copies of the Sunday Bee printed during the month of April, 1906, was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Number of copies and Total. Rows include 1. 30,250, 2. 31,400, 3. 31,400, 4. 34,780, 5. 31,280, 6. 31,280, 7. 32,100, 8. 40,100, 9. 31,400, 10. 31,400, 11. 31,400, 12. 31,400, 13. 31,170, 14. 32,100, 15. 29,100.

Net total sales, 1,028,988. Daily average, 34,299.

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WHEN OUT OF TOWN: Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have the Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

Unfortunately for the sultan, capitalists refuse to take their pay in decorations.

If Natal will watch Moro pajamas it will discover the best way to handle warlike Zulms when friendly efforts fail.

As long as the senate committee continues in a deadlock as to the style of the Panama canal no damage will be done.

Senatorial courtesy seems to halt just before it reaches the committee room whenever Attorney Cromwell is on the stand.

In the light of the experiences of Iowa boys at Annapolis Congressman Hepburn may be permitted to pass some strictures upon the navy.

Remarks by Senators Bailey and Tillman indicate that the democrats are not getting all the glory they hoped for the railway rate bill.

With American warships guarding San Domingo it is highly probable that natives of that country will carefully curb their desire to go on the war-path.

Rhode Island democrats are as active as though they imagined the Standard Oil company would be too busy in the courts to help Senator Aldrich.

The report that John Alexander Dowle is fatally ill is bad news for his lawyers, as actions in bankruptcy are usually more remunerative than those in probate.

Unless the Kansas supreme court jumps over its docket, Mayor Rose of Kansas City will serve his term before that body learns officially that it has been insulted.

Since the "muck rake" speech the price of sensational political magazine articles seems to have declined; but it has not affected current quotations on hunting stories.

Automobile makers will have more trouble to show prospective buyers where it is profitable to have a fast machine when laws against rapid driving are enforced.

Russia's "black hundred" can leave its campaign to its enemies since the social democracy has called a strike for May day when all patriots should keep their eyes on the Duma.

Tennessee democrats have voted by direct primary for a United States senator, but until returns are received from the back counties it cannot be told how the echo of the fiddle came from the hills.

With Egypt clamoring for home rule, the Transvaal asking for responsible government and Australia building a colonial navy, Irish members of Parliament may find themselves reinforced in a short time.

As the "Tobacco trust" was joined in a manner with the "Paper trust" in the supreme court action, the precedent set at St. Paul may be followed in New York, unless Gotham counselors may know their judges better.

Iowa democrats are to hold a meeting to discuss the question of calling a state convention. Judging by remarks of Iowa republican newspapers they should wait until the republicans have named their candidate—as circumstances alter cases.

FIRST STEPS.

The enactment of a railway rate message based on the Hepburn-Dowler bill, but perfected with various strengthening amendments, is now practically assured. The bill may yet be modified in its minor features before it emerges from the senate, and even after that may undergo more or less transformation in conference between the two houses, but a bill embodying substantially the president's recommendations will be written upon the statute books, barring unforeseen contingencies, before the final adjournment of congress.

That this ends the controversy for government control of these corporations is not to be assumed. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and eternal vigilance will be necessary on the part of the people and their representatives to keep what will have been gained and to correct whatever mistakes may be developed. Sooner or later this rate legislation is bound to undergo the scrutiny of the courts. It would be remarkable if the first attempt at legislation should result in a statute that would pass through all constitutional tests in its every part.

It will be necessary in the next congress, or the congress that is to come after that, to amend bills in the event that the courts shall have voided any sections of the bill, and the lineup between the representatives of the corporations on the one side and of the people on the other is likely to be just as clear cut over future measures to make the law effective as it is now over the present bill.

What is directly in point in this connection is the imperative necessity of having men in the next congress, and especially in the next senate, who can be depended upon to stand steadfastly by the Roosevelt program. This applies particularly to Nebraska, where a new senator is to be chosen. Nebraska is a state made up of farmers and producers, who are thoroughly enlisted under the Roosevelt banner. If a change is to be made in Nebraska's representation in the senate it must be a change in the direction of upholding the president and not in the direction of corporate subversion.

GERM OF A PARLIAMENT.

To Americans, or, indeed, to any people of western Europe and their colonies having the experience and traditions of constitutional government, the Russian experiment of a parliament under the explicit reservations of power contained in the czar's proclamation of the Fundamental Law just before the meeting of the Duma, or national assembly, seems at first blush preposterous and futile. We can hardly conceive of a national legislature from which are withheld by written constitution the power of the purse and control of the public domain, to say nothing of many other great powers denied to the Russian national assembly and definitely retained as crown prerogatives by the czar.

On the terms of this organic writing the czar, theoretically, can carry on government without regard to Parliament, borrowing and expending the necessary money at his pleasure, much as the autocrat of all the Russias has heretofore done. Practically and in the long run, however, the reverse is likely to happen, unless the general history of constitutional progress fails to repeat itself. The Russian loan of \$300,000,000, taken within a few weeks through foreign banking houses, could not have been successfully floated, it is agreed, but for the assurance that it would be duly confirmed and ratified by the Parliament. So the czar will, in emergency, in all probability, be thrown back upon the approval of the assembly as the popular representative, and concession by him of popular demands and rights will be the price of approval.

The very exclusion of the Parliament by written prohibition from land control may tend, along this line, to a solution of what is probably the most formidable, practical national problem. A peasant population equal to two-thirds the total population of the United States owns an average of less than seven acres each, on whom rests the weight of excessive taxation; before whom is the menace of recurrent famine, and yet who have before their very eyes the tantalizing sight of almost limitless rich but now waste land that would save them. Altogether the crown, the imperial family, the church and the nobles monopolize, in large part without using and preventing others from using, nearly a billion acres of land. The passionate desire of the peasantry is, as it long has been, to possess this vital opportunity and it grows stronger every year. The czar's restoration of power over it tends to fix upon him responsibility in the peasant's mind, so densely ignorant, that heretofore this fact has been obscured, while the national assembly is an instrument, though not yet an immediately decisive one, for pressing that fact home.

Historically, constitutional progress has mainly been limitation on royal power. The very calling and existence of the popular assembly is itself a memorable surrender of autocracy. It affords a point of vantage from which popular right may progressively wrest concessions of liberty, political power, and the other means of happiness as emergency from time to time confronts autocratic authority. It is indeed not a parliament as we understand its function. Behind an Anglo-Saxon parliament there is a thousand years of tradition and continuous constitutional growth and practical adjustment. The Russian assembly will be a historic triumph for human liberty if it proves but the

germ of constitutional government for the realm of the czar. The true test of its success is, not that it should be at one stroke an embodiment of western constitutional models, but rather that it should afford a basis, however narrow, on which a vast nation of almost medieval superstitions, ignorance and other conditions, now beginning to respond to the spirit of the times, may in the twentieth century work toward those models.

WHERE THE LOSS FALLS MOST.

A letter from Paul Morton, president of the Equitable, emphasizes what he calls "a lamentable fact" connected with the recent insurance upheaval and consequent investigations, that they force those to bear the burden who could least afford it. The records of his company, he says, show "that through a groundless fear that maturing contracts might not be fulfilled more than 27,000 policies for \$1,000 or less were allowed to lapse, while only one policy for \$250,000 was surrendered." He adds that, while this latter policy has since been restored with many of the small ones, "numbers of those who gave up their policies are not now insurable, while many have died during the year, leaving their families destitute, or nearly so, as is proved by the letters received."

President Morton is inclined to ascribe this condition to misapprehension and misrepresentation of the real facts and to blame "some newspapers" for it. The Bee does not feel itself included in this designation because throughout the entire insurance investigation it has treated the subject from an eminently conservative and dispassionate standpoint, yet at the same time it realizes the responsibility of the press to assist in reinstating life insurance in public confidence, although this responsibility must rest primarily upon the managers of the insurance companies, who must so conduct their institutions in the full light of publicity as to justify restored confidence.

There is no question but what the burden of the insurance shake-up, as President Morton points out, so far as it has fallen upon the policy holders, has hit hardest upon the small policy holders. The only way to remedy this would be to be as liberal as possible in the terms of reinstatement, but even here the interests of the policy holders who have fulfilled all conditions of their contracts must be safeguarded. Those who maintained their faith unshaken in the sound insurance companies through the period of exposure will not regret it, because they will ultimately reap the benefits.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

The action of the World's Postal congress, in session in Rome, in providing for an international return postage stamp, although apparently a small thing, means much, especially to the foreign-born people of this country. There are thousands upon thousands of foreign-born residents of the United States, and especially of this section of the United States, who are in communication with relatives and friends in their former homes across the sea and who bear the entire postage expense of letter writing. International postal regulations permit letters mailed in European countries to be delivered in this country, postage collect, but the fee collected is twice the amount that it would be if prepaid. The newly authorized device will enable people here to purchase a return international postage stamp, or coupon, affixing one stamp to their letter and enclosing the other inside of it, to be exchanged at the postoffice at the point of destination for a return stamp issued by the government of that country.

This new departure may not save much to the big commercial institutions, but it means a great deal to poor people who can ill afford to pay the express postage of collect letters. It will probably be some months yet before this innovation is put into practical operation, but it will surely be welcome to all affected by it.

THE PAPER TRUST.

The sweeping victory of the government in the Paper trust case reveals the radical and far-reaching effect of the national anti-trust law when enforced by an energetic and resolute executive. The Paper trust was not an extreme type of the numerous combinations to restrain trade, although there was general and vehement complaint by consumers of news print and fiber paper of its control of prices as the exclusive selling agent of the whole output of the western paper mills. But the result of vigorous and unrelenting prosecution is to establish the fact that this trust scheme is clearly and wholly within the prohibitions and penalties of the Sherman act against conspiracies against competition and trade.

The importance of the case, however, goes far beyond the interests of the immediate parties to it, because it has been the means of finally settling a constitutional point vital to the enforcement of the law upon all great trusts and combinations, the point as to the government's right to information of the acts of a defendant corporation or combine through its books and records and the testimony of its officers and agents. The government was confronted with their refusal to testify or to produce record evidence, but the point being carried to the supreme court of the United States this bulwark of corporation evasion was forever destroyed by its decision, and the Paper trust defense forthwith collapsed. The landmark thus set up in the enforcement of the anti-trust law causes the delay of more than a year in this particular case to fade into insignifi-

cance and will make it memorable in the history of the movement inaugurated by President Roosevelt for subjugation of trade conspiracies and corporation combines to the rule of law.

One by one the law's delays and the technical evasions which so long proved for great corporations an impenetrable shield to the attack of public authority are being broken down, leaving them no alternatives but to submit or suffer the heavy consequences. The offenders were powerful and it takes time to bring them to book, but the way has now in a large measure been prepared so that the work will go forward more rapidly.

RATE BILL AND OPPOSITION TACTICS.

Republicans may well view with equanimity the partisan turn to which the opposition in the senate is now devoting every energy in the debate and votes on rate bill amendments. It has from the first been perfectly obvious that the opposition tactics were either to secure, if possible, division among republicans, and, pretending to support the president, to claim credit for passing the rate measure, or, if the republicans were able to perfect and pass it by party vote, then to turn upon it all the batteries of denunciation to prejudice the legislative result in the popular mind for campaign purposes.

The democratic speeches now daily filling the columns of the Congressional Record accordingly are not real discussions of the great business in hand or directed to the merits of the subject, but stump speeches. Necessarily they take the form, in large part, of arraignment of President Roosevelt. It is deemed an absolute partisan necessity to disparage him in popular estimation, because otherwise his endorsement of the rate measure in its final form would blunt the point of the democratic campaign now impending. Hence the systematic effort to misrepresent the work of congress as it nears conclusion and to impugn the good faith of the president, now that it is settled that he, backed by the republican party, is able, without a democratic vote and in spite of democratic schemes to divide the republican party, to carry rate legislation through.

It is merely a repetition of old democratic tactics, but it cannot succeed with reference to a subject on which public attention is as thoroughly concentrated as it now is on control of transportation corporations. Publicity is also a safeguard against partisan misrepresentation and the light of publicity never shone more clearly on a great public act in all its stages. In that light popular confidence in the president will grow stronger as the results gained by and embodied in the perfected rate measure are weighed in mature public judgment. What is already known to have been gained is notable vindication of his courage, his fidelity and his power of leadership. To have been able to concentrate public opinion on corporation control as a paramount national need and thus to bring the matter irresistibly upon congress is by itself, under all the conditions, a signal triumph. Even in the midst of democratic misrepresentation, now going full length, every day marks progress in embodying that triumph in law, and the people are not going to be fooled for one minute.

PRESBYTERIAN BOOK OF WORSHIP.

It is not at all surprising that the publication of a Book of Common Worship should start more than a ripple of discussion within the Presbyterian church, although the book is put forward under authority of the general assembly, and its preparation under the scholarly hand of Dr. Van Dyke has been in progress for two years. The singular thing is that the protest against such a form is not more general and violent, or that the church authority should, on due deliberation running over a series of years, have been able to reach the conclusion to put it forth. Presbyterianism was originally one of the most austere religions against forms and ceremonial in religion, and the tendencies represented by the famous Scotch woman, Jennie Geddes, who hurled her stool at the head of the clergyman for reading prayers out of the Episcopalian Book of Common Prayer, have yielded nations to restraint, although there was general and vehement complaint by consumers of news print and fiber paper of its control of prices as the exclusive selling agent of the whole output of the western paper mills. But the result of vigorous and unrelenting prosecution is to establish the fact that this trust scheme is clearly and wholly within the prohibitions and penalties of the Sherman act against conspiracies against competition and trade.

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is not subject to destruction by earth tremors.

Forty years after the war the government is to tell of the operation of the navies of the north and south. At this rate the true inwardness of the Spanish-American war will be known after the magazine historians have subsided.

The serious illness of Carl Schurz recalls the fact that under some of the restrictive immigration laws now proposed the United States would have lost the advantage of the work and wisdom of such men.

Also, Switzer Reads. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Mr. Harriman's record-breaking runs across the continent are of no practical value further than to show that he has a swifter pass than the ordinary railroad president.

A Supplementary Corner. Washington Post. "Merit alone is responsible for the business of the Standard Oil company," says one of its representatives. Which looks as if the officers of the standard have also cornered the world's visible supply of modesty.

Cause and Effect. Somerville Journal. Somebody puts with pride to the alleged fact that club women seldom get divorced. Of course not. The club woman needs a husband to buy new gowns and pay club dues.

Wouldn't This Jar You? New York Post. Following the appointment of a millionaire street cleaning commissioner, the chief complaint comes the application of a millionaire for the position of dog catcher in Omaha. In the west, at least, our rich men are willing to begin at the bottom.

Troubles of the Car. Baltimore American. "The car may be weak and veering in his judgment and conduct, but he cannot be accused of lack of personal courage in determining to open the new Parliament himself. On the whole, he seems to be suffering principally from an uncongenial combination of good intentions and bad advisers."

Rocky Humor. Boston Globe. When the apologist of the oil monopoly asks if the people are "going tamely to submit to the exaction" of the president it is borne in upon the reader's mind that the admission of the trust magnates into the circle of American humorists was far from a nominal honor. Their power of cracking popular jokes is quite as keen as the best of the professionals in the business.

Helping Out the Railroads. Philadelphia Record. The railroads will hardly fail to welcome the amendment of the Hepburn bill to abolish free passes. Some of the most important of them have already anticipated the measure. It was left for the wisdom of Senator Morgan to prevent a stupid blunder which would have forbidden the railroads to extend free transportation to the victims of such a calamity as that of San Francisco.

REVELATION OF THE EARTHQUAKE.

Dishonest Construction Exposed by the Tremors. Portland Oregonian. Revelations made by the earthquake show that some of the imposing structures that made up the outward magnificence of Stanford University were constructed with the view to cheapness rather than stability, though the cost was as great as if good material, careful engineering skill and honest construction had entered into them. Many structures, including the library and gymnasium buildings, and the gateway to the campus, recently built at a cost of \$2,000,000, were thrown down like houses of cardboard. Sadly viewing them, men pick up pieces of mortar that should be hard as rock and crumble it in their fingers, while looking in vain for the steel retaining rods that, according to contract, should have supported the masonry. Workmanship and material, employed at a cost of the best in both lines, is presented by these ruins. Here indeed is "graft" grimly illustrated; favoritism shamelessly exploited; money wantonly wasted; confidence ruthlessly violated. Mrs. Stanford might not have been the wisest woman in the world, but her generous intent toward the university that bears the name of her lamented son is unquestioned. She poured out her money without stint in the hope and with the purpose of making Stanford university one of the stable institutions of the land. She was in hopes, but she made manifest by a sudden spasm of nature. The revelation is a painful one. Its outcome will be the modification in a subdued yet striking sense of the memorial features of Stanford university and their substitution by elements that more fitly contribute to the development of a great educational purpose.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Cast doubt to the winds. The straw hat is out. Old Vesuvius perpetrated several nasty tricks, but the meanest of them was to bury in ashes the signs of a real estate boom at Naples. If the average householder has any change left after the ice man gets his rakeoff, the camphor trust will scoop it in. Campaign balls are soaring high as Pa. Route's flies.

As an honorary member of the American Humorous association, Mr. Rockefeller is getting precious little inspiration for merriment out of the present situation. Possibly the approaching dividend period will produce a smile or two. These Indiana tremors should deceive no one. The writing and writing of authors in the throes of historical fiction or poetical agony cannot successfully compete with the real California article. Shaking Hoosiers should take something for it. What melancholy memories troop before Chicagoans as they contemplate the threatened collapse of the city hall. What a deluge of stinging tears, and well up and proud hearts throbbing with sorrow as the disciples of "I Will" view the destruction of columns of names of heroic builders graven on its granite pillars hard by the door. Even though the building perish ignobly, let the tablets be preserved at any cost.

Joseph A. Wheeler, editor of the St. Paul Pioneer-Press, is dead at the age of 75. He was a force and factor in the development of Minnesota for nearly half a century. His activities were not limited to the newspaper he controlled and directed. So masterful was his civic pride that he served on the St. Paul Board of Park Commissioners for years, and to his energy and skill is largely due the magnificent system of parks and boulevards now the pride and glory of St. Paul. His associates on the Pioneer-Press, in paying tribute to his life-work, have warrant for exclaiming, "If you would see his monument, look around."

Advertisement for A. Mandelberg Jeweler. Features include: "Don't be Bashful", "This \$30 Watch", "Diamond Ring, \$25", "Diamond Brooch \$20", and "A DOLLAR OR TWO A WEEK WILL DO". Address: 1522 FARNAM ST., OMAHA, NEB.

SERMONS BOILED DOWN. DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES. Strength in public must have sources in private. The funeral kind of religion is most properly dead. Life without restraint is without righteousness. Trains of lies are made up by switching the truth. A little great man can always be filled with vanity. He who stands for the right will not come to a standstill. Revere reasoning may be the best kind of a revelation. Ethics is good and so is a motor; but it needs a dynamo. Only the dead heart wants to be dead-headed to heaven. You cannot learn to be a guide by studying a guide book. No man gets worthy riches unless he is willing to be poor. People will believe in the virtues of your character without the evidence of its vigor. A man's vocabulary is measured by his dictionary; but his message depends on his heart. You do not have to throw prudence to the winds in order to prove that you steer by principle. When a man talks about the necessity of the divorce of religion and business the chances are that he is not acquainted with either.—Chicago Tribune. SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT. New York Tribune: The word obey is omitted from the form of marriage service in the new Presbyterian book of worship. The compilers evidently sought to bring the service into closer conformity with the actual conditions of married life. New York Post: The story that Dowle plans to establish a Zionist mission among the Indians is made plausible by the explanation that it is to be among the "Eastern Cherokees," whose claim for \$4,500,000 has just been allowed by the supreme court. Philadelphia Record: It is said that John Alexander Dowle proposes, if his health shall be spared, to establish a new Zion on one of the western Indian reservations. The proposition to stop the spread of monopoly by keeping in the possession of the government valuable oil, mineral and timber lands would be made still more provident and satisfactory if the reservation were so extended as to exclude the settlement on top of the lands of prowling religious fakirs. Chicago Chronicle: Bishop Mallieau preached an eloquent sermon at the First Methodist church on Sunday on the coming triumph of the Christian faith and found occasion to inform his hearers that if they wished to enjoy good physical health they should avoid canned food. The connection between his subject and the advice is not apparent, but we wish to say that we agree heartily both with the bishop's theology and with his dietetics. If any one wishes to live long in this world and go to heaven when they die he should follow the bishop's advice in both respects. PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. Cast doubt to the winds. The straw hat is out. Old Vesuvius perpetrated several nasty tricks, but the meanest of them was to bury in ashes the signs of a real estate boom at Naples. If the average householder has any change left after the ice man gets his rakeoff, the camphor trust will scoop it in. Campaign balls are soaring high as Pa. Route's flies. As an honorary member of the American Humorous association, Mr. Rockefeller is getting precious little inspiration for merriment out of the present situation. Possibly the approaching dividend period will produce a smile or two. These Indiana tremors should deceive no one. The writing and writing of authors in the throes of historical fiction or poetical agony cannot successfully compete with the real California article. Shaking Hoosiers should take something for it. What melancholy memories troop before Chicagoans as they contemplate the threatened collapse of the city hall. What a deluge of stinging tears, and well up and proud hearts throbbing with sorrow as the disciples of "I Will" view the destruction of columns of names of heroic builders graven on its granite pillars hard by the door. Even though the building perish ignobly, let the tablets be preserved at any cost. Joseph A. Wheeler, editor of the St. Paul Pioneer-Press, is dead at the age of 75. He was a force and factor in the development of Minnesota for nearly half a century. His activities were not limited to the newspaper he controlled and directed. So masterful was his civic pride that he served on the St. Paul Board of Park Commissioners for years, and to his energy and skill is largely due the magnificent system of parks and boulevards now the pride and glory of St. Paul. His associates on the Pioneer-Press, in paying tribute to his life-work, have warrant for exclaiming, "If you would see his monument, look around."

Advertisement for A. Hospe Co. Features include: "Do It Now", "In the cleaning up, in the rearranging of the furniture, in changing the old for new and in making the home modern, do not forget the piano.", "A. HOSPE CO.", "1515 Douglas St., Omaha, Neb.", "PIANO TUNING, \$2.50. PIANOS REPAIRED.", "THE BLACK AND WHITE", "and the color pictures displayed in Hospe's windows are just a few samples of the stock of Art Pictures you can view in the many picture cases lined up at the side walls in the store.", "Just think it over—'Ten Thousand' different reproductions, as well as original paintings, to look at.", "Just for the Asking", "We will gladly show you our beautiful stock. Buy or no Buy? Our new spring Picture Frames stock will surprise you, for the many new, novel designs are tempting, and we are making frames every minute for the last 32 years.", "A. HOSPE CO.", "1515 Douglas Street OMAHA, NEB."